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rediscovered at the time of its first return. When discovered this year it was in the constellation *Scutum*. Its motion southward and eastward has since taken it into *Sagittarius* and *Capricornus*. Its nearest approach to the Sun was on November 2nd, when it was at a distance of about 91,000,000 miles.

ANNA R. KIDDER.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTE ON COMET *c* 1913 (NEUJMIN).

According to the orbit published in *Lick Observatory Bulletin*, No. 245, this comet is moving in an ellipse with a period of 17.83 years. The orbit is inclined 15° to the plane of the ecliptic. It is a very interesting fact that the comet's path lies for a short distance very near to the orbit of the planet *Mars*. For a distance of about 40,000,000 miles the two orbits are almost parallel, the comet's path being but 570,000 miles further from the Sun than that of *Mars*. At the present perihelion passage, which occurred on August 16th of this year, *Mars* was considerably ahead of the comet, so that they did not get closer than 100,000,000 miles. The comet is now in the Square of *Pegasus*, but it is too faint to be seen except with the largest telescopes. On November 4th, Professor BARNARD of Yerkes Observatory described the comet as seen in the 40-inch refractor as showing no trace of nebulosity and looking exactly like a star of 13½ magnitude. For a detailed account of the discovery of the comet and its appearance, see the note by Dr. AITKEN on September 23, 1913, printed in these *Publications* for October, 1913. SETH B. NICHOLSON.

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NOTE ON COMET *d* 1913 (DELAVAN-WESTPHAL).

The fourth comet of the year was discovered by DELAVAN at the La Plata Observatory, Argentina, on September 26th. At that time it was in the constellation of *Aquarius* and was moving westward and northward.

In *Astronomische Nachrichten* 4619, Mr. ADOLF HNATEK gives search ephemerides for the current year corresponding to different assumptions for the period of WESTPHAL'S periodic comet. Interpolation from these, on the basis of the observations of September 26th and 27th of DELAVAN's comet by HUSSEY and AITKEN respectively, yielded the period 61.121 years, thus confirming the identity of the new comet with WESTPHAL's comet of 1852.

Observations of September 27th and 30th and October 4th, by Dr. AITKEN of the Lick Observatory, formed the basis of a differential correction of HNATEK's elements, conditioned by the assumption of a period of 61.121 years. In this connection it should be stated that Professor LEUSCHNER's formulæ are so arranged that it is a simple matter to compute an orbit on the basis of *any* adopted period. The elements of the orbit and an ephemeris are given in *Lick Observatory Bulletin,* No. 244.

The comet is moving in a plane inclined 44° to the plane of the ecliptic. Its nearest approach to the Sun will be on November 26th, at a distance of 117,000,000 miles. It has been receding from the Earth since discovery. Maximum brightness was reached early in October, so that the comet will not become visible to the naked eye, as in 1852.

The following comment by Professor BARNARD of the Yerkes Observatory, just received in a letter from him to Professor LEUSCHNER, may be of interest: "WESTPHAL's comet is simply gone to pieces. It is a vague, somewhat elongated mass of feeble light $2' \pm$ in diameter. A setting for position could not be made closer than $1'$. It is most extraordinary. There is no condensation and no form to it. It is faint."

SOPHIA H. LEVY.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,
November 10, 1913.